Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A composition for detecting a target microorganism in a sample, comprising a conditionally detectable marker, wherein said marker is a red-ox dye, and a substrate for an aminopeptidase that is substantially absent from the target microorganism, wherein said substrate comprises a signal moiety linked to the substrate, the signal moiety capable of providing a detectable signal when cleaved by substantially all non-target microorganisms.
- 2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said target microorganism is selected from the group consisting of bacteria, yeast, mold, fungi, protozoa, and viruses.
- 3. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein said target microorganism is bacteria.
- 4. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 3, wherein said bacteria is selected from the group consisting of Salmonella, Listeria, E.coli OH157, Campylobacter, Staphylococcus aereus, Cryptosporidium, and Giardia.
- 5. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein said bacteria is Campylobacter.
- 6. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said conditionally detectable marker is detectable by a change in color.

7. (Original) The composition of claim 6, wherein said change in color is produced by the biochemical reduction of tetrazolium red.

8. - 9. (Canceled)

- 10. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said aminopeptidase is an L-alanine-aminopeptidase.
- 11. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 10, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of L-Alanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin, L-Alanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin TFA, L-Alanine-7-amido-4-trifluoro-methylcoumarin TFA, L-Alanyl-L-alanyl-
- 12. (Original) The composition of claim 11, wherein said substrate is L-alanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin.
- 13. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 8, wherein said non-target microorganisms include substantially all non-Campylobacter species.
- 14. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a growth-supporting medium for the target microorganism.
- 15. (Original) The composition of claim 14, wherein said growth supporting medium contains all necessary nutrients and growth conditions to properly support the growth of the target microorganism.
- 16. (Original) The composition of claim 14, wherein said growth supporting medium contains antibiotics to suppress the growth of non-target microorganisms.

Application No. 09/940,682 Reply to Office Action dated August 8, 2005

17. - 24. (Canceled)